

Rockport Ordinance Review Committee

Draft minutes of the 2-05-2021 meeting

In attendance:

Chairman Richard Remsen, Stephen Smith, Vice Chair and Secretary Robert Hall, Select Board liaison Denise Munger, William Gartley, David Cocky, Mark Haley, Orion Thomas, Mandy Marriner Everett

Absent: Taylor Allen

Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM.

The committee continued its review of chapter 1100 Signs and Advertising after a second draft of the draft was distributed.

Bob hall stated that edits reflect the attempt to reformat the ordinance in a better understandable and organized way

Eliminated overlaps in the ordinance – but the ordinance was not changed beyond the minor changes suggested by the CEO

2nd draft was based on additional comments from the committee's review of the first draft as well as Town Code Enforcement Officer Scott Bickford's comments after he reviewed the first draft.

It was noted that the section governing political signs in the ROW is awkwardly written.

Signs on private property only exempt temporary signs – David would like to see it explicitly state that political signs are allowed on the ROW. Would like to see more clarity regarding political signs on private property vs ROW. He would like to see the ordinance written to state what is allowed, not a blanket prohibition with exceptions.

Action – Bob Hall will further review this section.

Definitions – no further definitions needed, not further edits to existing definitions.

1102 – Administration

Concerns were brought up regarding the legality of CEO to come onto private property to remove signs that are not in compliance with the ordinance. Code Enforcement staff stated that the intent of the change was to cover temporary signs on public right of ways, not private signs on private property.

Action – Bob Hall will redraft to explicitly clarify that this section will give the authority for the CEO to remove only temporary signs on public right of way that do not meet the ordinance requirement.

1105- "Signs Exempt from Permitting Process"

1105.4 – the last sentence is confusing as Political signs on private properties and public ways are actually regulated.

Action- Bob Hall will redraft to remove the last sentence that states **"Political signs on private property and public ways are not regulated."**

1107 Internally Illuminated Signs

It was discussed that even though the title of the section deals with internally lit signs, externally lit signs are also discussed leading to possible confusion. Sentence 2 of Section 1107.1 states that "Illuminated signs must be illuminated externally and shall be lighted from sources which are shielded from the streets and adjoining property with no exposed source of illumination". The committee felt that it was important to keep that sentence within the section but placing it elsewhere for clarification purposes.

Action- Bob Hall will review the section and place the second sentence of Section 1107.2 elsewhere for clarity.

1107.3 – It was noted that "909" resort district is omitted from the list of districts that allow one internally illuminated sign no greater than two square feet stating "open" or "closed" is allowed. It was further noted that the only district that shouldn't allow for this is the 904 "rural district". The committee agreed that it made sense to keep 904 exempt, but that the other districts should be added.

Action- Bob Hall will add districts 909 to the section that permits internally lit "vacancy/no vacancy" to the section of 1107 that deals with transient accommodations for hotels and bed and breakfasts, and will add districts 903, 908 and 909 in the section that allows for an internally illuminated "open and close" sign measuring no more than 2 Sq. Ft.

1109 – Subdivision signs

It was noted that the reason for the double faced sign size standard is not logical.

Action – Bob Hall will remove the size standard specifically for double sided subdivision signs within this section of the ordinance.

1112- Gasoline and Diesel Price Signs

It was noted that there may be state or federal regulations on these signs beyond the town's control.

Action – Bob Hall will remove the size standard specifically for double sided signs advertising Gasoline and Diesel Price signs

1113 – "Flags, Banners and Pennants" – No suggested changes to second draft.

1114 – "Dimensional Standards for Signs by District"

Action – Bob Hall will remove Districts 907 and 916 section 1114.2.A., and the size regulation specifically for double sided signs from all of section 1114

1115 – "Sign Prohibitions" – no comments or suggested changes to second draft

1116- "Miscellaneous" – no comments or suggested changes to second draft

A third draft of Chapter 1100 will be distributed to the committee after incorporating the committee's suggestions from this meeting.

Other business – The committee will await for guidance from the Select Board and the Town's Planning Department to address housing density standards of the RES site.

Adjourned at 4:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandy Marriner Everett